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XII. On the Migration of certain Birds, and on other Matters relating to the feathered Tribes. By William Markwick, Esq. Associate of the Linnean Society.

Read February 3, 1789.

HE different accounts which have been published by various authors relating to the œconomy of birds, have always appeared to me exceedingly strange and unsatisfactory. I was willing to attribute these contrarieties to a variety of reasons. I thought perhaps that different causes operated upon these little animals, and led them to adopt different modes of living, fuitable to the urgency of the occasions. But at length I became rather confirmed in the idea, that many authors wrote not from their own observation, but from guess, and the vague accounts which others had given before, who had still received them from others no better acquainted with the subject than themselves. This determined me to make accurate observations of what should really occur. I therefore offer the following remarks to the Linnean Society, as matters which are to be depended upon, and which I myself saw: and I the more readily enter upon this task, as I should apprehend if different observers stationed in different parts of the kingdom would take the trouble to notice the occurrences which happen, not only the catalogue of the British species would be most correctly ascertained, but their economy illustrated so effectually,

tually, that doubt and ignorance would no longer obscure so curious a subject.

Catsfield, the place where these observations were made, is situated near Battle in Sussex, about five miles from the sea-side. The country round it is finely diversified with hill and dale. Though there is no large river near it, yet there is much oozy springy ground, and many woods, some of a tolerably large extent, in the neighbourhood.

I will first set forth in one synoptic table the several particulars which I have been led to notice, and then mention the result of my observations, by way of giving a general notion of the several incidents. After which I will add some few other illustrations, which could not easily be comprised in these tables.

A TABLE of the Appearance and Disappearance of the following BIRDS.

Swallow-Hirundo rustica.	1768	1760	1770	1771	1772	1773	1774	1775	1776	1777	1778	1779	1780	1781	1782	1783
First seen	Ap. 14	Ap. 12	Ap. 18	Ap. 27	Ap. 12	Ap. 17	Ap. 13	Ap. 14	Ap. 16	Ap. 12	Apr. 7	Ap. 14		Apr. 8	Ap. 22	Ap. 13 Nov. 6
Not seen after -	Nov. 13	Oct. 25	Nov. 10	Oct. 28	Nov. 13	Oct. 18	Oct. 16	Oct. 24	Oct. 22	Oct. 27 (Oct. 26	Oct. 29	Nov. 3	Oct. 15	Sep. I	Nov. 6
Martin—Hirundo urbica. First seen					1	^			A	A	A	^		N.T	An 26	May r
Not feen after		Ap. 20	May 8	Ap. 17	Mov. 12	Nov I	Oct an	Ap. 30	Ap. 19	- 23	Oct 26	Ap. 14	Ap. 29	Sep. 7	Nov. 2	May I Nov. 6
Swift-Hirundo Apus.		OCI. 4	OCT. 31	Oct. 20	1403		000.22	000.14	-		000.20	0000	1101. 3	- I	*	
First seen		May 2	May 11	Ap. 29	May 2	May 13	May 16	Ap. 28	May 14	May 9	May 2	May 9	May 6	May 12	May 18	May 13
Not feen after -			Oct. 1	Oct. 28	Au. 26	Oct. 10	Sep. 21		Au. 11	May 9	Sep. 2		Sep. 8	Sep. I	Au. 28	Nov. 6
Sand Martin-Hirundo riparia.			The same													
Not feen after -			May 16			Ap. 21	May 16	Sep. 25		July 3 Sep. 3	Ap. 10	May 7	Apr. 8	Ap. 20	Au 28	Sep. I
Wry Neck-Jynn Torquilla.						OCL. 10	oep. 21	Sep. 25		DCP. 3	ocp. z		sep. o	ocp. 1	1111	
First seen	Apr. 2	Ap. 12	An. Is	An. 22	Ap. 13	Ap. 10	Mar.21	An. 12	Ap. 18	Mar. 26	Ap. 21	Ap. II	An. 10	Ap. 14	Ap. 25	Ap. 18
Not seen after	Sep. 25		Aug.25	Oct. 6	Sep. 14		Sep. 2		Aug. 5	Sep. 6	Au. 26		Sep. 14		Au. 29	Ap. 18
Cuckoo-Cuculus canorus.																
First seen Not seen after	May 1	Ap. 22	Ap. 27	May 1	An 25	Aug 5	Ap. 29	Ap. 29	Ap. 17	Ap. 30	Ap. 23	Ap. 25	Ap. 23	Ap. 19	Ap. 20	Ap. 28
Goat Sucker—Caprimulgus Europæus.	Oct. o	Sep.22:	riug 25		Au. 20	raug 25	oep. 2	Sep. 5	OCL. II			оер. 23			-	
Seen Seen Laropæus.														May 29		
Turtle Dove-Columba Turtur.		Transport of the														
Seen -						-								June 11	June 4	
Woodcock-Scolopax Rusticola.		00	00	-	00	00	00		~ ~ ~	00	00	~		00	00	00 -
First seen	An In	Apr. 7	Apr 6	Oct. 24	Mar 22	Mar 10	Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 18	Oct. 20	Apr. 5	Mar ar	Oct. 19	Mar. 21	Mar. 27	Apr. 6
Red Wing-Turdus iliacus.	1 1111	Trpr.	zipi. o	11p. 10	11144.23	1,14	21p. 17	Ар. 13	Apr. o	Mar. 17	Tipi.	14141.21	Tipis o			
Market & Contract of the Contr	Dec. 14	Dec. 18		Mar. 2	Nov. 2		Nov.25		Mar. 22	Jan. 9	Oct. 17			Nov. 30	Dec.21	
Not seen after	Ap. 13	Apr. 7	Apr. 1	Ap. 18	Mar. 1	Apr. 2	Ap. 17	Ap. 13	Apr. 6	Mar. 17	Apr. 5	Mar. 15	Apr. 8	Ap. 14	Mar. 27	Apr. 6
Royston Crow-Corvus Cornix.	1 xr	N.T.		00	00 -0		-		N. A. I.			00		-		*
		Nov. 7												Dec.23 Ap. 14		
Snipe-Scolopax Gallinago.	1 11/20 14		P- 14	11p. 10	100.24	111111115		тр. 13	Apr. o			Tipi. I				
First seen -		Nov.11	Nov. 10	Nov. 8	Oct. 19	Oct. 23	Oct. 3	Oct. 16	Nov. 9		Jan. 29	Nov.13	Nov. 11	Sep. 29		Dec. 8
Not seen after			Mar.31	Ap. 18	Apr. 2	Apr. 7	Mar. 19	Ap. 14	Apr. 6		Apr. 5	Mar. 13	Apr. 8	Mar.21		Apr. 6
Fieldfare—Turdus pilaris.		NT TO		NT	Mon	NT	NT.	00.0	**		00			Donas		D
Not seen after -		- INOV.10	Apr. I	Ap. 18	Apr. 8	Ap. 10	Ap. 17	Ap. 12	Apr. 6	Nov. 10 Mar. 14	Apr. 5		Apr. 8	Ap. 14		Dec. 29 Apr. 6
Jack SnipeScolopax Gallinula.									- Pre-	27241124			- P			
First seen -	-	-														
Not seen after				Ap. 18	Mar. 16	Apr. 7		Ap. 13	Apr. 6	Feb. 8	Apr. 5	Mar. 13	Ap. 19	Ap. 14		Apr. 6
Sifkin, or Aberdavine-Fringilla Spinus.	1	- A					Δ						A	A		
Not feen after	Alpr.	5 Ap. 20		THE STATE OF THE S			Ap. 22						Ap. 20	Ap. 15		
RedflartMotacilla Phænicurus.													F - 3 -			
	Apr.	6 Ap. 15	Ap. 27	Ap. 17	Apr.	Ap. 14	Ap. 21	Ap. 22	Ap. 17	Ap. 23 Sep. 18	Ap. 20	Ap. 30	Ap. 30	Ap. 17	Ap. 25	Ap. 27
The state of the s	Sep. 2	5 Sep. 22	Sep. 29	Sep. 30	Sep. 1	Sep. 18	Sep. 9	Sep. 20	Sep. 11	Sep. 18	Sep. 14	Sep. 23		Sep. 6	Sep. 20	Oct. 2
Willow WrenMoracilla Trochilus.	1	6 An an	Mar 16	Marao	Δ	Δ	5 An 20	Ana	. Δ	Δ	An	An To	An 16	Ane a	An 18	An 12
Not feen after -	OS. I	8 Oct. 2	1 Oct. 23	Sep. 20	Sep. 16	Sep. 20	Sep. 21	Sep. 22	Sep. 11	Ap. 14 Sep. 28	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Sep. 13	Sep. 4	Sep. 20	Oct. 7
Nightingale-Motacilla Luscinia.	1	THE WAY														
First seen	Ap. I	2 Ap. 16	May 8	Ap. 23	Ap. 18	3 Ap. 21	Ap. 20	Ap. 26	5 Ap. 20	Ap. 17	Apr. 8	Ap. 17	Apr. 5	Ap. 14	May 3	Ap. 28 Oct. 2
	-		-		Nov. 1			-				Sep. 23	Sep. 14			Oct. 2
White Throat—Motocilla Sylvia. First seen	Ana	a An Tr	May r	An. 26	5 An. 21	5 An 20	May !	An. 2	An To	An In	Mar 2	An. 21	An. 20	Ap. 14	Ap. 25	Ap. 26
Not feen after -	Oct.	6 Sep. 21	Aug.28	Oct. 6	Sep. 16	Sep. 13	Sep. 9	Sep. 13	Sep. 5	Ap. 19 Sep. 29	Sep. 20	Sep. 23	Sep. 20	Sep. 7	Sep. 20	Oct. 2
Wheat Ear-Motacilla Oenanthe.						1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1										
First seen	May	5 Ap. 15	May 6	Ap. 5	May 23	Ap. 16	May 8	June 29	Ap. 21		May 18	Apr. 3	Ap. 22	Mar. 26	Mar.13	Apr. 3
	Oct.	6	- Oct. 1	Oct. 20	Sep. 1;	7 Sep. 20	o Oct. 3	Cct. 12	Sep.		Sep. 13	Sep. 25				
Fly Catcher—Muscicapa grijola. First seen	Mar	6 May I	r May 12	May c	May	May I	May T	Maya	Maya		May 14	May 18	May I	May 16	May 16	May 14
Not feen after	Oct.	6	- Aug.25	Oct.	Sep. 20	9 Sep. 10	9 Sep.	Sep. 1	3 -	Sep. 21	Sep. 13	Sep. 23	Sep. 14	Sep. 22	Au. 31	Oct. 2
Land Rail-Rallus Grex.										•						
First seen	Sep.	1 Sep. 2	3 Aug.27	7	- Sep.	9 Sep.	I Sep. I	2	- Sep.	2 Sep. 4	Sep. 14	Sep.	1 Au. 2.	+ Sep. 29	Sep. 12	Sep. 2
	Nov.2	o Nov.	3 Oct. 24	-	- Nov.	7 Oct. 2:	2	- Oct. 1.	4 Uct. 1	9 Oct. 27		INOV. 4	-			
Whin Chat—Motacilla rubetra.		- An a	o May I	An r	7 Man	5 An. 2	0	- Aug	7 A11 2	o May ro	A 110. 4			- Air. 20	Au. 28	Au. 26
First seen Not seen after		- Sep. 2	I Sep. 21	Oct.	6 Sep.	5 Sep. 1	6				Sep. 17	Sep. 23		-		
Black Can Matavilla Alvicabilla																
First seen - Not seen after -	-	- Ap. 3	0 —	- Ap. 2	2	- Ap. 2	3 May	7	- May 2	o Ap. 23	May 29)	- Ap. 3	o Ap. 14	Ap. 26	May 15
				- Oct.	()					- Sep. 19		- Sep. 2	3 Sep. I	4 oep. 4		Oct. 2
Redback'dButcherBird-Lanius Collura Seen										- May 12	May o	Tuly 10	May I	May o		June 7
											7 9			7		
								2.0	1.2			122				**

EXPLANATORY REMARKS on the foregoing TABLE.

Hirundo rustica—the Swallow.

The Swallow's first appearance was generally about the 12th of April, never earlier than the 7th, or later than the 27th of that month; and I never faw it later in the year than the 16th of November, and then only a fingle bird or two, the generality of them disappearing long before that time.

Hirundo urbica—the Martin.

This bird is somewhat later in its appearance than the foregoing one, we having never seen it earlier than the 17th of April; but in general it does not appear till towards the latter end of that month, and frequently not till May, having one year not been feen till the 12th of May; and I never faw it later in the year than the 13th of November; but, like the former, the generality had disappeared before.

Hirundo Apus—the Swift.

This bird is later in its appearance than either of the two former ones, being hardly ever feen before the beginning of May, twice only on the 28th and 29th of April during the whole fixteen years; and its latest appearance was on the 18th of May; nor does it remain so late in the autumn as the former ones, the latest I have ever observed it being the 2d of September.

Hirundo riparia—the Sand Martin.

As this bird is not near so common in this country as the other species, my observations on its appearance must be uncertain, though I believe it generally makes its appearance very early, as I once obferved

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Hirundo riparia—the Sand Martin.

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ferved it on the 8th, and another year on the 10th of April; but fometimes, indeed, I did not see it till late in the year, owing, I suppose, to their being scarce. The latest I ever saw it in the autumn was the 25th of September.

Jynx Torquilla—the Wry Neck.

The first appearance of the Wry Neck for sixteen years together was generally about the 13th of April, never earlier than the 26th of March, nor later than the 25th of April; and the latest of its continuing to appear was the 14th of September.

Cuculus canorus—the Cuckoo.

The first of the Cuckoo's being heard for sixteen years together was generally about the latter end of April, never earlier than the 17th of that month, nor later than the 5th of May; and it continues to sing till about the latter end of June, the 26th being the latest that I ever heard it. After that it is silent, though it continues to make its appearance till the beginning of September, the 14th of that month being the latest period of my seeing it. What Willoughby and others affert concerning this bird's breeding in the nest of a small bird, I know to be a fact, having myself taken a young Cuckoo out of the nest of an Hedge-sparrow, and kept it in a cage till the approach of winter, when it died.

Caprimulgus Europæus-the Goat Sucker.

I have only taken notice of seeing this bird in the year 1781, on the 29th of May.

Columba Turtur—the Turtle.

I have only taken notice of the appearance of this bird in two years, 1781 and 1782, which was on the 4th and 11th of June.

Scolopax

Scolopax Rusticola—the Woodcock.

The first appearance of the Woodcock, according to my journal during sixteen years, has been generally in October, never earlier than the 12th of that month; and as to its continuance with us, I never saw it later than the 10th of April. We have had two or three instances, in this neighbourhood, of young Woodcocks being shot in the summer-time; and I think I once saw an egg of this bird taken out of a nest in the neighbourhood: but their breeding here is very uncommon, and owing, I suppose, to accident; the old ones perhaps having been wounded by sportsmen in the winter, and so disabled from taking a long journey in the spring.

Scolopax Gallinago—the Snipe.

This bird also generally makes its first appearance in October: I once saw it so early as the 29th of September, and the 14th of April was the last of my seeing it here.

Scolopax Gallinula—the Jack Snipe.

This bird is not fo frequently met with as the foregoing, so that I cannot speak with certainty as to its appearance; though I believe it is some time later than the common Snipe, the earliest of my seeing it being the 20th of November, generally not before December; though it seems to continue with us late, as I have seen it on the 19th of April.

Corvus Cornix—the Royston Crow.

This bird, being feldom feen far from the fea-coast, has not been very frequently observed by me. The earliest of its appearance, according to my journals, was the 17th of October; and I never saw it after the 14th of April, that being the latest of my observing it, according to my notes.

Turdus pilaris—the Fieldfare.

This bird is very uncertain in its appearance. Some years great flocks of them are early to be feen; other years very few, and those not till late in the winter: which variation, as to the time of their appearing, is caused, as I suppose, by the different degrees of cold in the different winters. The earliest appearance of this bird that I have observed, was on the 26th of October, and the latest of my seeing it was the 8th of April.

Turdus iliacus—the Red Wing.

This bird is also very uncertain as to the time of its first appearance, but seems to be later in its visit than the foregoing; for, according to my journal, the 14th of December is the earliest of its appearance, and in general I did not see it till January or February. In March and the beginning of April, when the weather is sine, the Red Wings assemble together on the tops of high trees, and sing very melodiously; soon after which they leave us, the 13th of April being the latest of my seeing these birds.

Rallus Crex—the Land Rail.

The first appearance of this bird I cannot speak to with any great certainty, having seldom met with it before the season for shooting Partridges, September; though it has twice made its appearance in August, once on the 24th, and the other time on the 27th. And how long it continues with us is also uncertain; though I do not recollect ever to have seen it so late in the year as November. That it is a bird of passage, and that its stay with us is short, is most probable; for it does not breed here, and certainly leaves us before the winter commences. From its generally slying very slow, and to all appearance weakly, one would suppose it ill adapted to long and quick slight: but that it can exert itself

on occasion, I have been an eye witness; having seen it fly with amazing swiftness, equal to that of any Hawk: it also runs very fast.

Fringilla Spinus—the Siskin, or Aberdavine.

This little bird was observed only in the years 1768, 1769, 1774, 1780 and 1781. It is undoubtedly a bird of passage, spending a short time with us early in the spring, probably in its passage from one country to another, as it neither breeds with us in summer, nor appears here in the winter. I never saw it before the 5th of April, nor after the 30th of the same month. I observe it seeds on the seeds which are in the cones of the fir.—With us it is called the Barley-bird, from its appearing about the time of sowing barley, and continuing with us no longer than the barley-sowing lasts.

Mr. Latham fays it is not unfrequent in England in the winter. With us it is feldom feen at all. I never faw it in the winter. The longest stay I ever observed it to make, was from the 10th to the 30th of April in the year 1780.

Lanius Collurio-the red-backed Butcher Bird.

This bird breeds with us, and generally appears about the 9th or 10th of May; having never been feen by me earlier than the 9th of May, and one year I did not fee it till the 7th of June.

Motacilla Phœnicurus—the Redstart. Mot. Trochilus—Willow Wren. Mot. Sylvia—White Throat. Mot. Oenanthe—Wheat Ear, and Mot. Luscinia—Nightingale.

These small birds generally appear pretty early in April, and continue to make their appearance till September, sometimes rather later, as I have seen the Wheat Ear and Willow Wren in October. The same temperature of the air in the spring, which invites the

flies and other small insects to come forth, brings these birds to seed on them. But whether they come out from their hiding places, as the insects do, or whether they come from far distant countries, is a question not yet determined by naturalists. Probably the life of insects is terminated with the summer, and the insects of the sollowing year are produced from eggs, which are hatched by the warmth of the spring: but no naturalist ever afferted that this was the case with birds. Their life is certainly prolonged from year to year; but how they dispose of themselves during the winter, is the question. I never saw these birds in the winter, the earliest of my seeing any of them being on the 13th of March, when I saw the Wheat Ear.

Muscicapa Grisola—the Fly Catcher. Mot. Atricapilla—Black Cap. and Mot. Rubetra—Whin Chat.

These birds appear somewhat later than the foregoing, but I never saw any of them in the winter.

I will here beg leave to mention a few particulars respecting other birds which have engaged my notice: the white Water-wag-tail, the grey Water-wagtail, and the yellow Water-wagtail.

How the Water-wagtails dispose of themselves in the winter, is the most dissicult to account for of any birds I know; for though the generality of them disappear in the autumn, yet they are often seen in the middle of winter. If there happens to be a fine day, and the sun shines bright, these birds are sure to make their appearance, chirping briskly, and seemingly delighted with the fine weather: whereas, perhaps, they had not been seen for three weeks or a month before. In short they are never seen in winter but on a fine day. Where do they come from? Certainly not from a far distant country; there not being time for a very long journey in the

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fpace of a fingle day; and besides, they never seem to be tired or lifeless, but are very brisk and lively.

Sterna Hirundo & Sterna minuta-Sea Swallows.

These birds are, as I suppose, summer birds of passage; appearing on our sea-coasts about April or May, and continuing with us till the autumn. The earliest that I have observed the great Sea Swallow, Sterna Hirundo, was the 15th of April; the lesser, or Sterna minuta, the 24th of April; and the black Sea Swallow, Sterna sissippes? is so rare, that in sixteen years I observed it but once, and that was on the 28th of April.

As to the time of their leaving us, I cannot speak with any certainty. I once saw the lesser Sea Swallow so late as the 15th of October.

Motacilla Atricapilla—the Black Cap,

Sings very prettily, and has a note somewhat like the Nightingale; for when I first heard it, I took it for that bird, till I had seen it.

Charadrius Oedicnemus—the Stone Curlew,

Whistles in the evening. I heard this bird June 17th, 1770, amongst the corn on the downs not far from Eastbourn, where I suppose it breeds.

Corvus Corax—the Raven.

There feems a wonderful antipathy between this bird and the Corvus frugilegus, or Rook. In the year 1778, as foon as a Raven had built her nest in a tree adjoining to a very numerous rookery, all the Rooks immediately forsook the spot, and have not returned to build there since.

At the Bishop of Chichester's rookery at Broomham near Hastings in Sussex, upon a Raven's building her nest in one of the trees, trees, all the Rooks forfook the fpot; but they returned to their haunt in the autumn following, and built nefts there the fucceeding year. When this circumftance took place, the good Bishop was very ill. The slight of the Rooks (for at first the cause of it was not known) was considered by the country people as ominously portending the death of the possessor. However, his Lordship happily recovered; and, in the mean time, the slight of these poor prophets was better accounted for.

Motacilla Regulus—the golden-crowned Wren.

This bird, though the smallest of any except the humming-bird, and to appearance the most delicate, is yet hardy enough to endure the cold of our severest winters; for it is now (January 26th, 1776) the severest weather I ever remember, and yet it is chirping before me.

Before I conclude this article, I will beg leave to mention a few birds, found in my neighbourhood, which are rarely met with. And I do this the more readily, as I am defirous of affording evidence of the fouthern fituations in which they have been taken. They are the Scolopax Iapponica, the fmall Curlew, or red-breafted Godwit; the Tringa Glareola, or brown-spotted Sandpiper; the Ampelis garrulus, or Chatterer; and the Fringilla Montifringilla, or Brambling.

The Tringa Glareola has never been figured by any author. I made a drawing of it from a fresh specimen, with the following description.

Tringa Glareola—the Brown-spotted Sandpiper.

The Wood Sandpiper. Latham's Synopsis, vol. iii. p. 172, sp. 13. Tringa (Glareola) rostro lævi, pedibus virescentibus, corpore susco albo punctato, pectore albido. Linn. Syst. Nat. vol. i. p. 250.

Tringa

Tringa nigra albo punctata, pectore maculato, abdomine subalbido, pedibus virescentibus. Fn. Suec. 152.

Tringa. Brisson's Ornithologia, vol. ii. p. 259.

This bird was shot by the side of a little fresh-water rivulet in the parish of Battle, and sent me by a friend. I do not find it mentioned by any author except Linnæus; who, in his Systema Naturæ, seems to think it only a variety of the Tringa Ochropus, or Green Sandpiper: but, in his Fauna Suecica, he takes notice of it as a distinct species, calls it Tringa Glareola, and describes it as follows, which agrees with the bird that was sent to me: "Magnitudo Sturni, dorsum suscum albo punctatum, uropigium album, remiges susceptions, prima rachi nivea; secundariæ apicis margine albæ, rectrices sassis albis susciss; laterales magis albæ, minusq; sasciatæ, abdomen albidum." He also says, "Habitat in sylvis uliginosis."

This bird is rather more than nine inches in length from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, and near a foot and a half from tip to tip of the wings when extended. Its bill is smooth, black, an inch and a half long. The nostrils are long, and placed near the head, and each mandible has a furrow running along it, more than half way from the head. From the bill to each eye there goes a blackish line, and over each eye is a white space, and it is whitish under the chin. The top of the head, neck, and breast, are of a brownish ash-colour streaked, especially on the breast and cheeks, with a darker brownish ash-colour. The back is of a dusky brown, tinged a little with olive-colour, and marked pretty thick with small whitish spots. The rump and covert feathers of the tail are white. The tail consists of twelve feathers, marked with dark-coloured or blackish and white bars, but the two outermost are almost entirely white; and the nearer they are to the outside, the more white they have. The quill feathers of the wings are all over of a dark dusky brown colour, and the